

Verhalen, Frances

From: Osbourne, Margaret
Sent: Wednesday, September 06, 2017 8:06 AM
To: Verhalen, Frances
Subject: FW: Urgent Re: M6H1 Harvey Response/RE: Request for help -- air sampling in Manchester

Margaret Osbourne
Chief, Air Toxics Enforcement Section
Compliance Assurance & Enforcement Division
EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue (6EN-AT)
Dallas, TX 75202
214-665-6508

From: Thompson, Steve
Sent: Wednesday, September 06, 2017 7:53 AM
To: Osbourne, Margaret <osbourne.margaret@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Urgent Re: M6H1 Harvey Response/RE: Request for help -- air sampling in Manchester

From: Gray, David
Sent: Wednesday, September 06, 2017 5:15 AM
To: Seager, Cheryl <Seager.Cheryl@epa.gov>; Payne, James <payne.james@epa.gov>; Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>
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Cc: Blanco, Arturo; Hoyt, Daniel; Key, Patrick - HHD; James, Daisy - HHD; Persse, David - HFD; Enders, Jhana; Richner, Donald - HHD; Katie Moore; Richner, Donald - HHD
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To: Madden, Joshua; Curran, Trisha
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Josh and Trisha,

EN has asked our assistance in checking out the methodologies for sampling for benzene in ambient air.

- The City of Houston is deploying their mobile lab and collecting 24-hour canister samples. I need to know the analytical methodology.
- A contractor from California working for EDF is collecting grab samples using *ppb rae* with a 3-minute sample time. Need to know what this instrument is and what the associated standard collection methodology is.

Sources of information: Clarence Jackson and David Shelow.

Thank you.

Frances Verhalen, P.E., Chief
Air Monitoring/Grants Section
US Environmental Protection Agency
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Jon Rauscher is looking at risk/toxicology.

Frances Verhalen, P.E., Chief
Air Monitoring/Grants Section
US Environmental Protection Agency
1445 Ross Avenue (MC 6MM-AM)
Dallas, TX 75202
214-665-2172
verhalen.frances@epa.gov

From: Stenger, Wren
Sent: Wednesday, September 06, 2017 9:47 AM
To: Donaldson, Guy <Donaldson.Guy@epa.gov>; Verhalen, Frances <verhalen.frances@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Urgent Re: M6H1 Harvey Response/RE: Request for help -- air sampling in Manchester

We might be asked to evaluate sample results.

From: Seager, Cheryl
Sent: Wednesday, September 06, 2017 7:08 AM
To: Stenger, Wren <stenger.wren@epa.gov>
Cc: Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>; Gilrein, Stephen <gilrein.stephen@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Urgent Re: M6H1 Harvey Response/RE: Request for help -- air sampling in Manchester

Wren - thank you for the follow up yesterday - we think you should be in the loop on this. I'm on travel today but Steve Thompson is in the office - will probably want to discuss with Guy and Fran.

Thanks,
Cheryl

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Gray, David" <gray.david@epa.gov>

Date: September 6, 2017 at 5:15:03 AM CDT

To: "Seager, Cheryl" <Seager.Cheryl@epa.gov>, "Payne, James" <payne.james@epa.gov>, "Thompson, Steve" <thompson.steve@epa.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Urgent Re: M6H1 Harvey Response/RE: Request for help -- air sampling in Manchester

City of Houston is sharing canister results, asking for EPA results and letting us know they are sending the MAAML.

We would like to hear what kind of results EPA found today in Manchester. We plan to have our mobile lab out there tomorrow. The Ca/EDF team will move to the west side of Houston.

Our two canister results from Monday and Saturday are below.

Canister 1106 benzene level is 334.4 ppb collected on 9-4-17 b/w 6:28 pm to 6:28 pm

Canister 0394 benzene level is 137.6 ppb collected on 9-2-17 b/w 4:27 pm to 4:27 pm

thanks, Loren

Loren Raun, PhD
Chief Environmental Science Officer
Interim Bureau Chief Community and Children's Environmental Health
Houston Health Department

From: Raun, Loren - HHD

Sent: Monday, September 4, 2017 6:23 PM

To: Gee, Randy

Cc: Blanco, Arturo; Hoyt, Daniel; Key, Patrick - HHD; James, Daisy - HHD; Persse, David - HFD; Enders, Jhana; Richner, Donald - HHD; Katie Moore; Richner, Donald - HHD

Subject: Re: Urgent Re: M6H1 Harvey Response/RE: Request for help -- need for surface water sampling near Superfund Sites and Industrial/Hazardous Waste Sites

Thank you. We are still concerned. We are getting reports from the field.

California Team used HHD ppb rae to find plume. In the plume they got 590 ug/m3 benzene at 5 pm in the neighborhood on the corner of avenue I and 96th. This was 3 minute reading. We will need to have an hour average. They are going to try to calculate an hourly average based on their other reading. The 1 hour ESL was 170 ug/m3.

At 3:27 to 4:27, HHD MAAML found benzene at 5.23 ppb and lots of other compounds. Other compounds aren't high enough to trigger ESLs but higher than we usually see.

We, (EPA, Cal team and MAAML staf)f are having a call to coordinate sampling at 9 am tomorrow.

thanks, Loren

Loren Raun, PhD
Chief Environmental Science Officer
Interim Bureau Chief Community and Children's Environmental Health
Houston Health Department

From: Gee, Randy <Gee.Randy@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 4, 2017 5:36 PM
To: Raun, Loren - HHD
Cc: Blanco, Arturo; Hoyt, Daniel; Key, Patrick - HHD; James, Daisy - HHD; Persse, David - HFD; Enders, Jhana
Subject: Re: Urgent Re: M6H1 Harvey Response/RE: Request for help -- need for surface water sampling near Superfund Sites and Industrial/Hazardous Waste Sites

Loren

Jhansi Enders from our response team should be contacting you soon.

Randy

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 4, 2017, at 12:21 PM, Raun, Loren - HHD
<Loren.Raun@houstontx.gov> wrote:

Randy, I did not hear back from enforcement.
When we talked the other day you indicated you
would ask them to call me.

We are finding alarming levels of benzene in the
neighborhood next to Valero. We just saw 53 ppb
benzene in ambient air and equivalently high
toluene and suspect based on our PID
measurements the last few days that this has been
prolonged.

Should EPA evacuate the residents? They are
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advise. or Shelter in place.

Loren Raun, PhD
Chief Environmental Science Officer
Interim Bureau Chief Community and Children's
Environmental Health
Houston Health Department

From: Gee, Randy <Gee.Randy@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2017 12:38 PM
To: Raun, Loren - HHD; Blanco, Arturo
Cc: Hoyt, Daniel; Key, Patrick - HHD; James, Daisy - HHD
Subject: M6H1 Harvey Response/RE: Request for help --
need for surface water sampling near Superfund Sites
and Industrial/Hazardous Waste Sites

Loren- will do. I have sent the request to the REOC.

Randy Gee
EPA Region 6 Office of Environmental Justice, Tribal and
International Affairs
Office Phone: 214-665-8355

From: Raun, Loren - HHD
[mailto:Loren.Raun@houstontx.gov]
Sent: Friday, September 01, 2017 11:47 AM
To: Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>
Cc: Hoyt, Daniel <Hoyt.Daniel@epa.gov>; Key, Patrick -
HHD <Patrick.Key@houstontx.gov>; Daisy James
<Daisy.James@houstontx.gov>; Gee, Randy
<Gee.Randy@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Request for help --need for surface water
sampling near Superfund Sites and Industrial/Hazardous
Waste Sites

Dear Randy, Please let me know. (b) (6)

Loren Raun, PhD
Chief Environmental Science Officer
Interim Bureau Chief Community and Children's
Environmental Health
Houston Health Department

From: Blanco, Arturo <Blanco.Arturo@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2017 11:43 AM
To: Raun, Loren - HHD
Cc: Hoyt, Daniel; Key, Patrick - HHD; James, Daisy - HHD;
Gee, Randy
Subject: Re: Request for help --need for surface water
sampling near Superfund Sites and Industrial/Hazardous
Waste Sites

Loren,

Randy Gee is forwarding your request to our
Regional Emergency Operations Center for
processing.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 1, 2017, at 11:33 AM, Raun, Loren - HHD
<Loren.Raun@houstontx.gov> wrote:

Hi Arturo/Dan, We read in the news the EPA is sampling surface water adjacent to Corpus Christi Superfund Sites. We really need that here. Can you please pass on that message and also let me know who is the contact for that?

thanks, Loren

Loren Raun, PhD
Chief Environmental Science
Officer
Interim Bureau Chief Community
and Children's Environmental
Health
Houston Health Department

Verhalen, Frances

From: Verhalen, Frances
Sent: Wednesday, September 06, 2017 10:36 AM
To: Osbourne, Margaret
Subject: RE: Urgent Re: M6H1 Harvey Response/RE: Request for help -- air sampling in Manchester

Margaret,

6MM-AM has reviewed the information regarding the sample methodology that is stated or implied below. According to the TCEQ QAPP and the portion therein that pertains to the City of Houston's air monitoring methods, they collect ambient air samples using stainless steel canisters and analyzing samples using EPA Method TO15. This is standard practice for collection of ambient air samples for toxic organics, including benzene.

The California contractor is most likely used a RAE systems ppbRAE 3000 VOC Monitor, as noted by the term PPB rae. This hand-held monitor collects samples continuously in 3-second intervals, and can continuously monitor VOC vapors in the parts-per-billion range. The information presented below stated that the sample was for 3 minutes. Clarification of the sampling interval from the contractor should be confirmed.

Frances Verhalen, P.E., Chief
Air Monitoring/Grants Section
US Environmental Protection Agency
1445 Ross Avenue (MC 6MM-AM)
Dallas, TX 75202
214-665-2172
verhalen.frances@epa.gov

From: Osbourne, Margaret
Sent: Wednesday, September 06, 2017 8:06 AM
To: Verhalen, Frances <verhalen.frances@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Urgent Re: M6H1 Harvey Response/RE: Request for help -- air sampling in Manchester

Margaret Osbourne
Chief, Air Toxics Enforcement Section
Compliance Assurance & Enforcement Division
EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue (6EN-AT)
Dallas, TX 75202
214-665-6508

From: Thompson, Steve
Sent: Wednesday, September 06, 2017 7:53 AM
To: Osbourne, Margaret <osbourne.margaret@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Urgent Re: M6H1 Harvey Response/RE: Request for help -- air sampling in Manchester

From: Gray, David
Sent: Wednesday, September 06, 2017 5:15 AM

To: Seager, Cheryl <Seager.Cheryl@epa.gov>; Payne, James <payne.james@epa.gov>; Thompson, Steve <thompson.steve@epa.gov>

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